

# Esther Roughsedge

# National Records of Scotland: Telling the Story of **Scotland**



Preserving  
the past



Recording  
the present



Informing  
the future

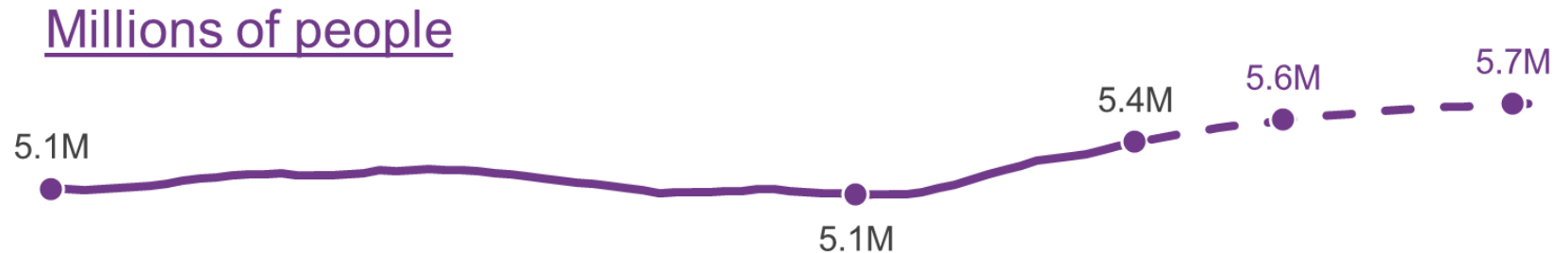
# Why is population change important?

- Demand for services
- Education
- Health and social care provision
- Housing
- Workforce size/skills
- Tax revenues
- Pensions
- Funding allocations
- Impact on natural environment



# Overview of how Scotland's population is changing

# Scotland's population was the **highest ever** in 2017, and is **projected to rise**



Mid-year population estimates

Population projections

1951

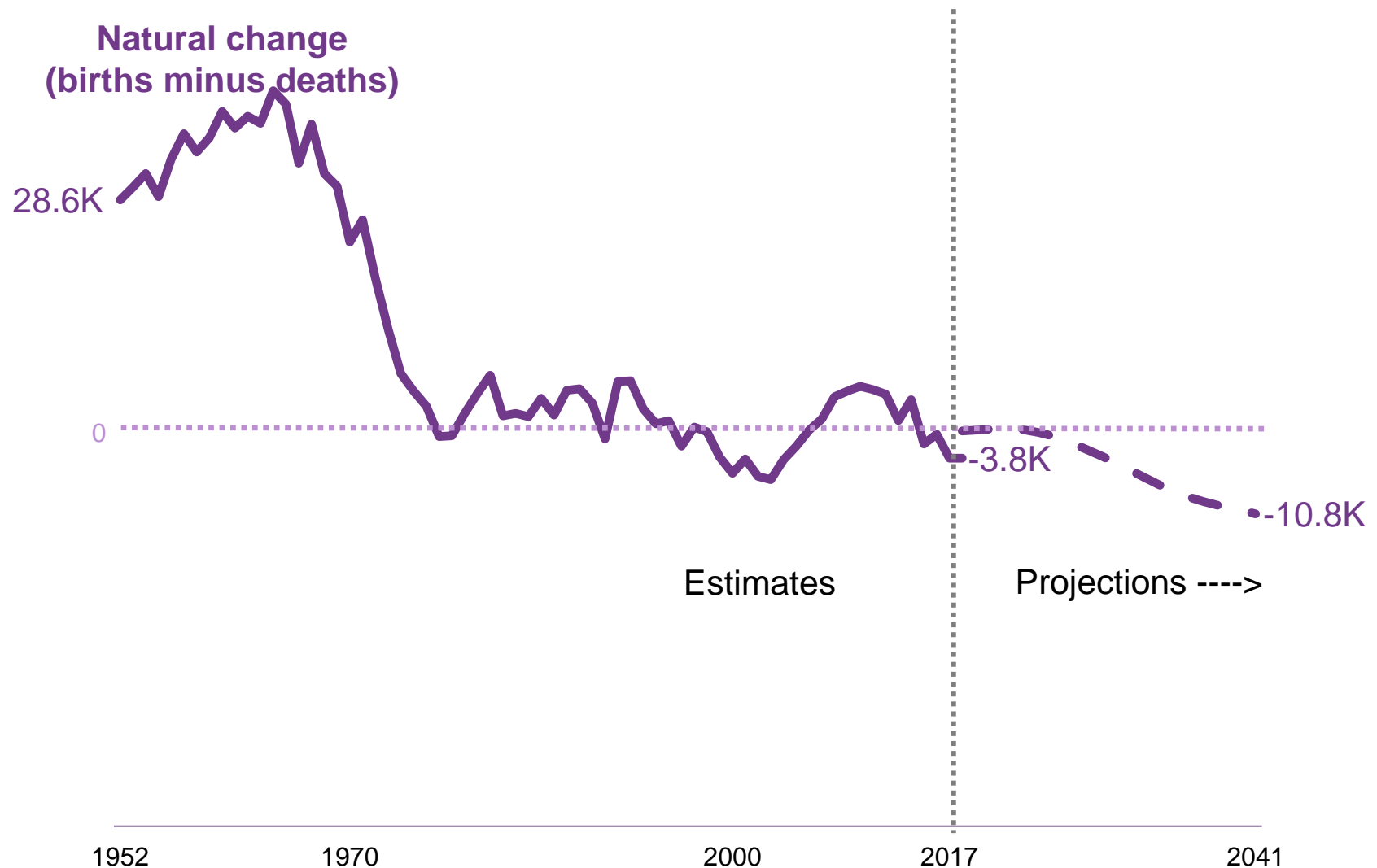
2000

2017

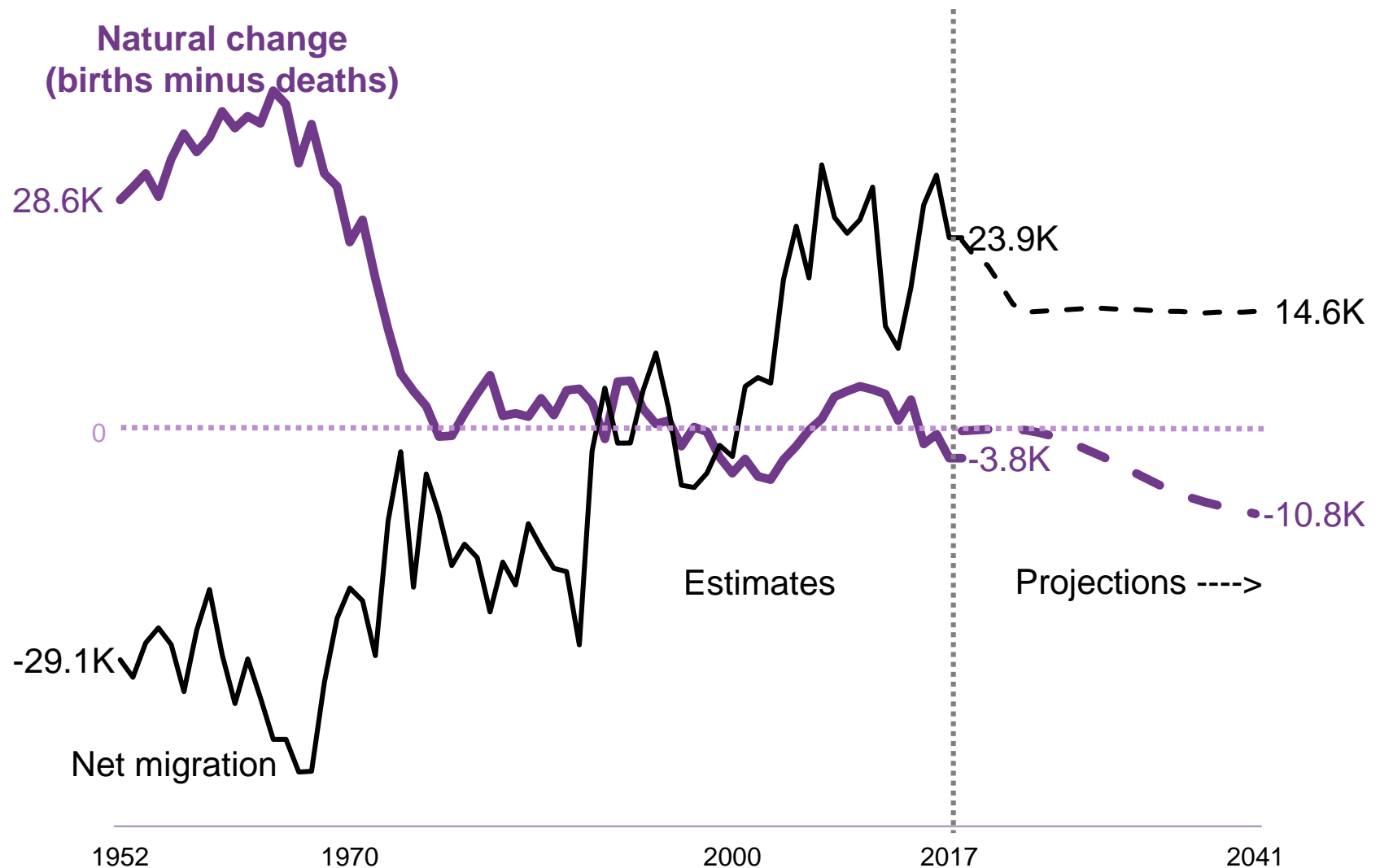
2026

2041

# Births exceeded deaths in the 1950s-60s, but more recent figures are lower

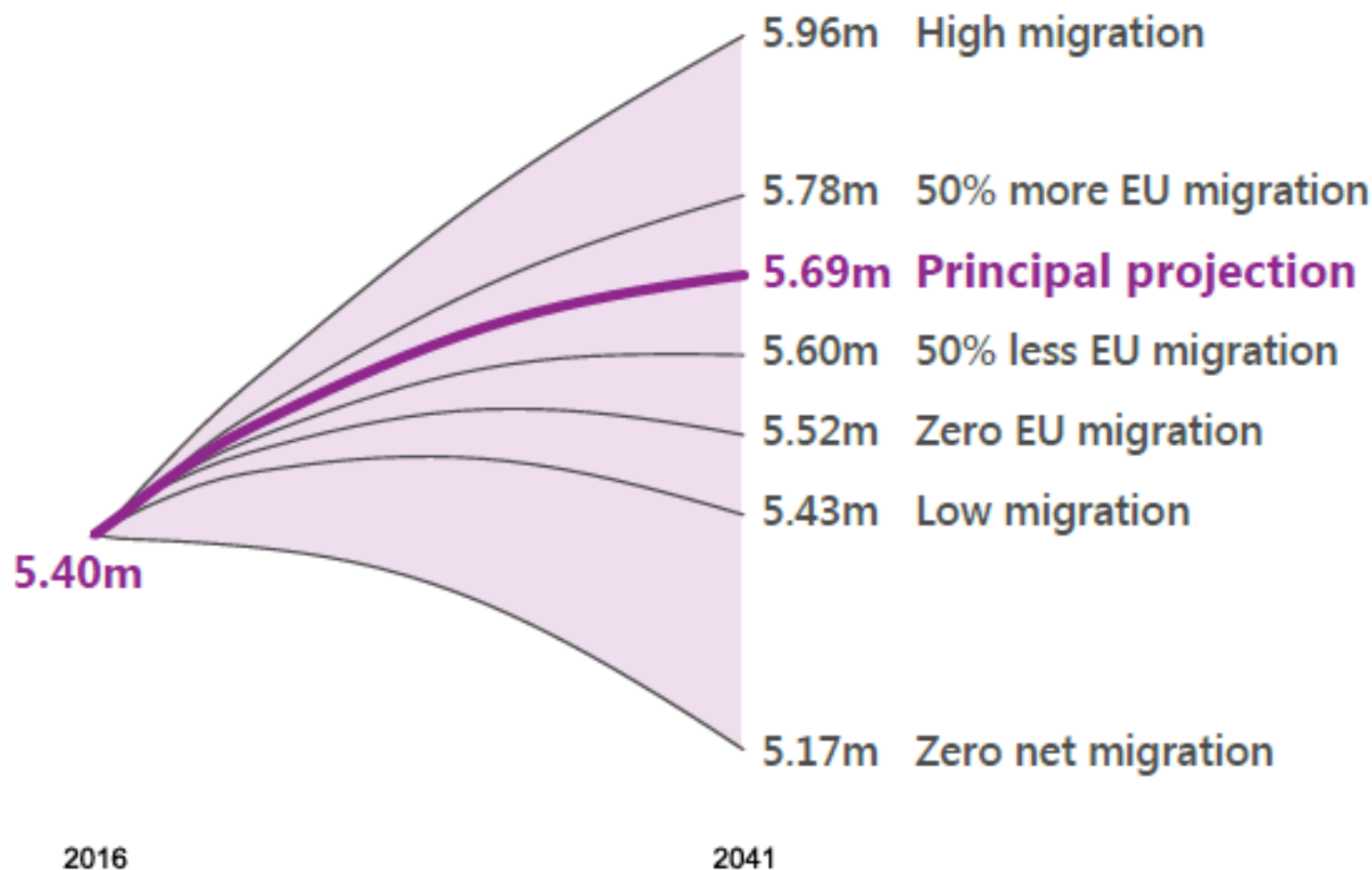


# Since ~2000, Scotland's population has increased mostly due to **migration**



# Population projections under different migration assumptions

Millions of people

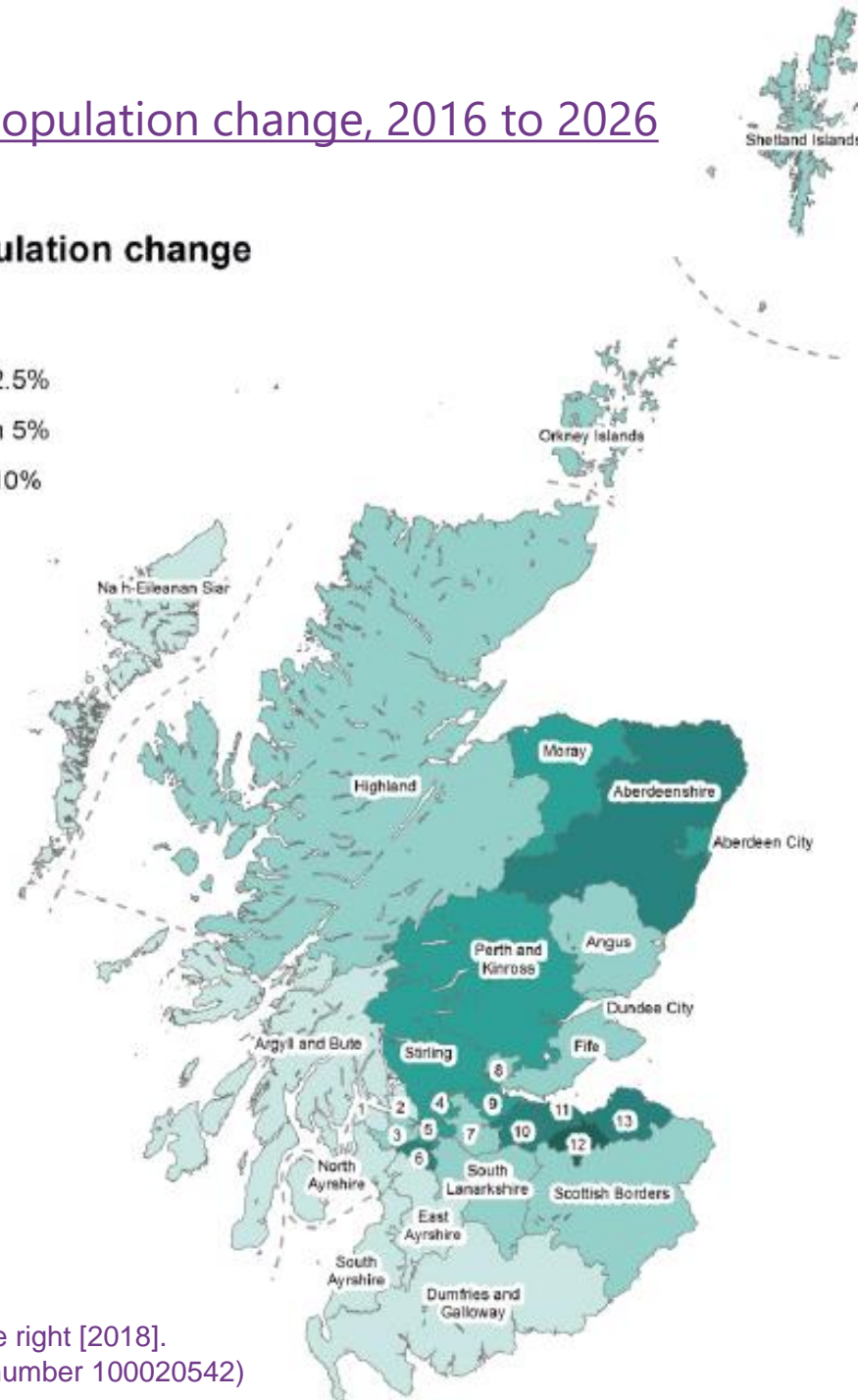
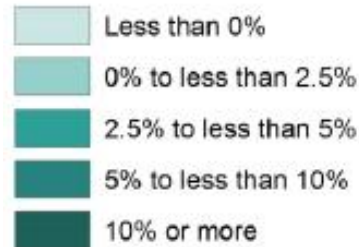




## Projected population change, 2016 to 2026

Population is **increasing overall**, but projected to **decline in one quarter** of Scottish council areas

### Percentage population change



# Implications – overall population change

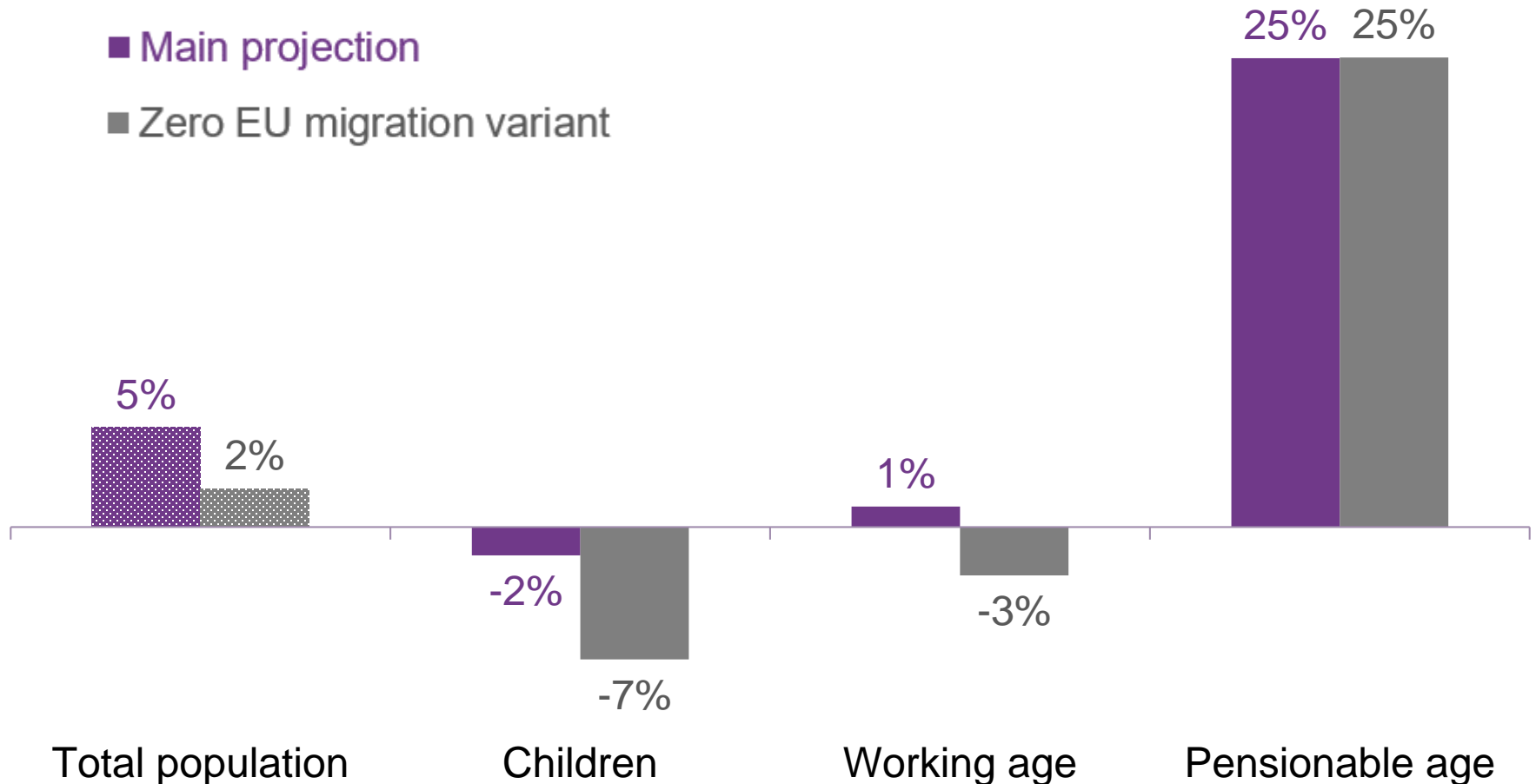
- Need and demand for services
- Tax revenues to fund services
- Local workforce / skills



# Age structure

# Most population growth is among **pensioners**

Projected population change, 2016-2041

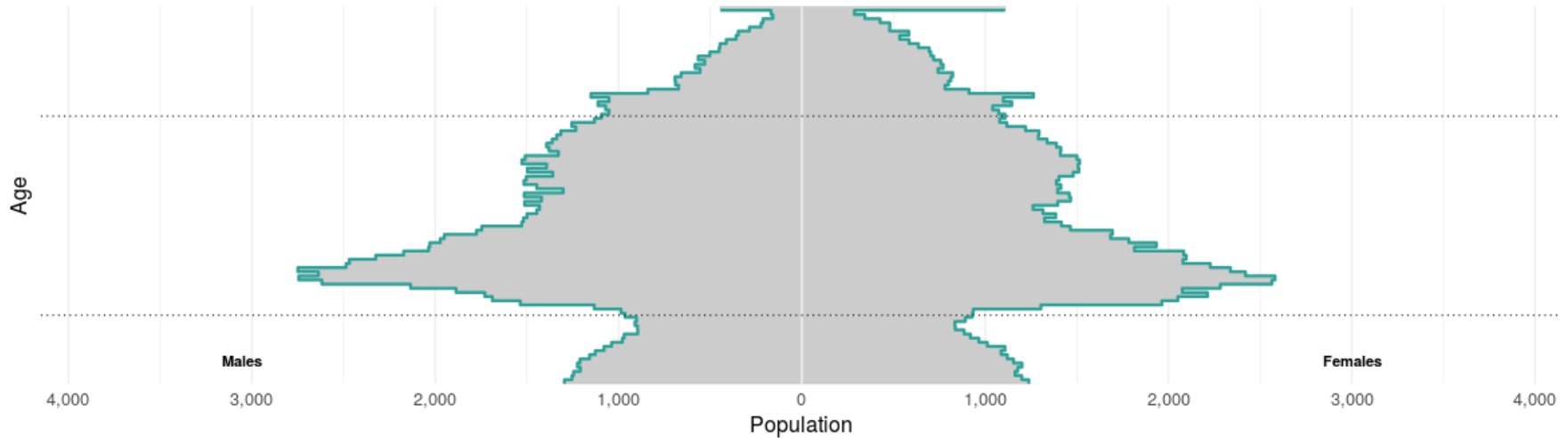


# Example: population projections:

<https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sub-national-population-projections/>

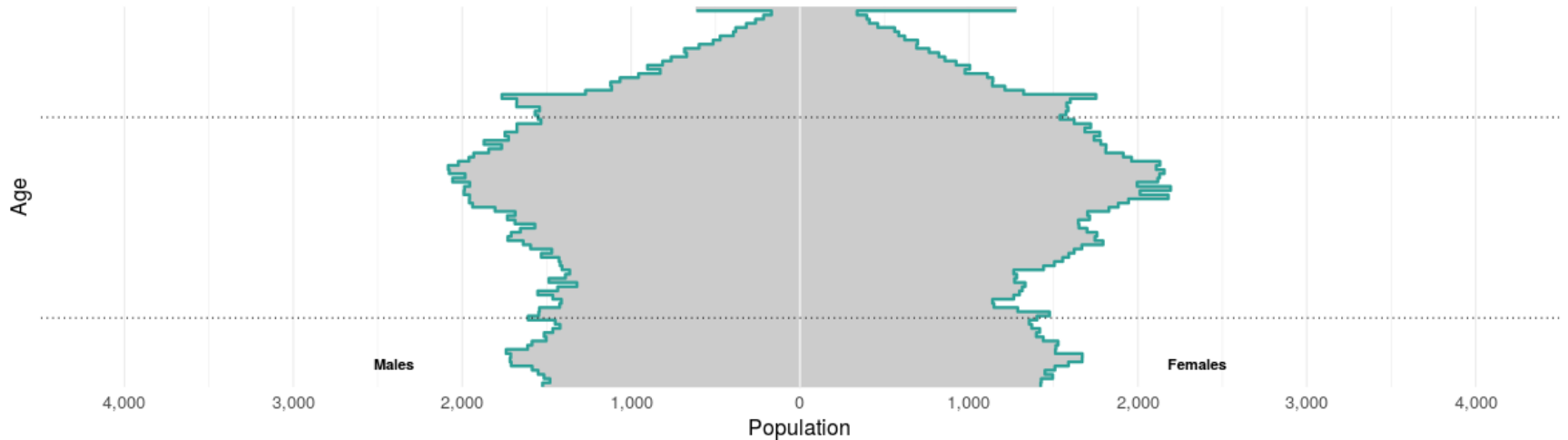
## Aberdeen City

Projected Population by age and gender  
Principal projection, 2016 (solid) and 2016 (line)



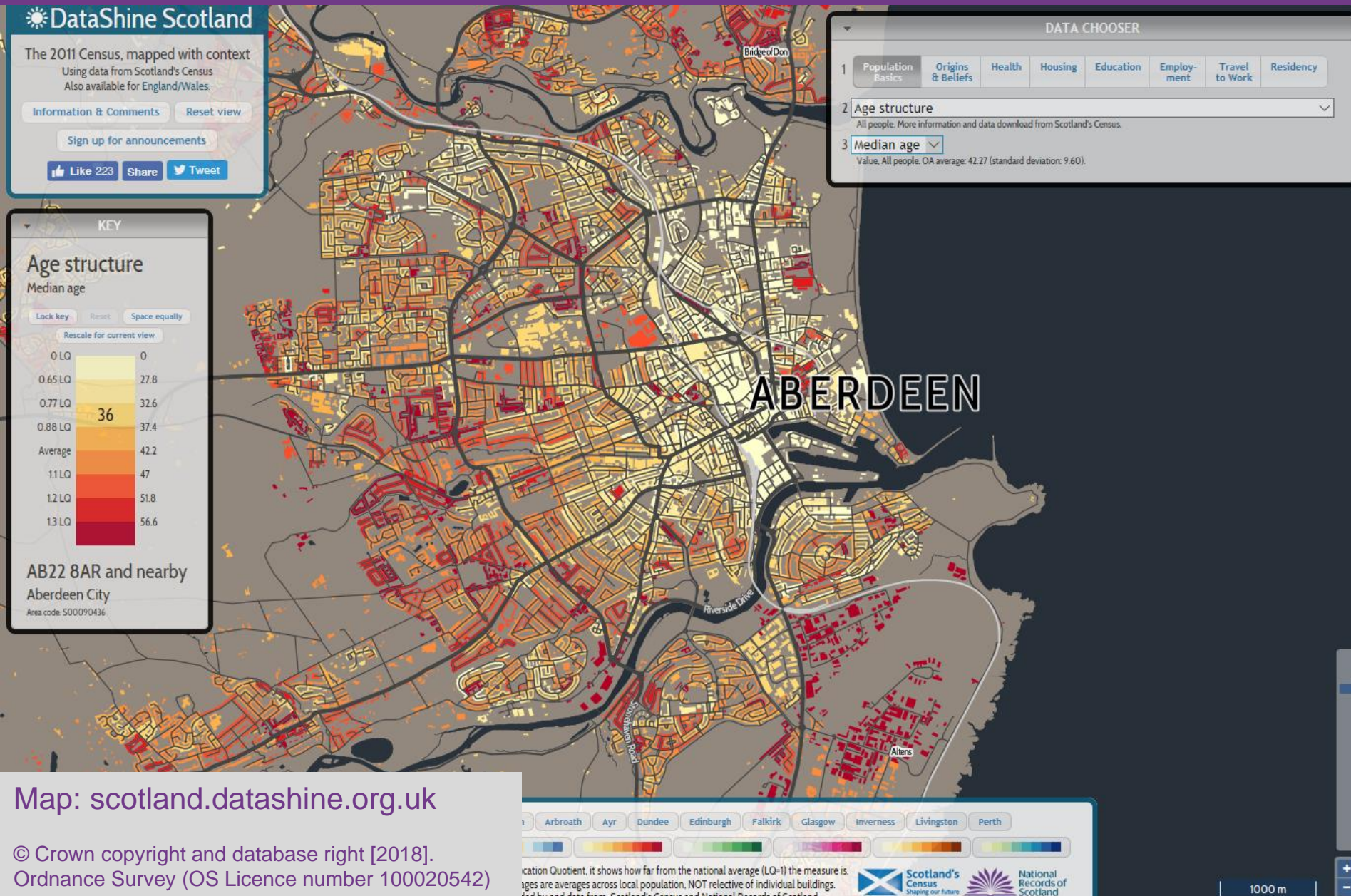
## Aberdeenshire

Projected Population by age and gender  
Principal projection, 2016 (solid) and 2016 (line)





# Average age Scotland's Census 2011 – [scotland.datashine.org.uk](http://scotland.datashine.org.uk)



# Implications – ageing population

- Opportunities (capacity to contribute longer)
- Challenges (greater demand for public and voluntary services)
- Relatively smaller working age population



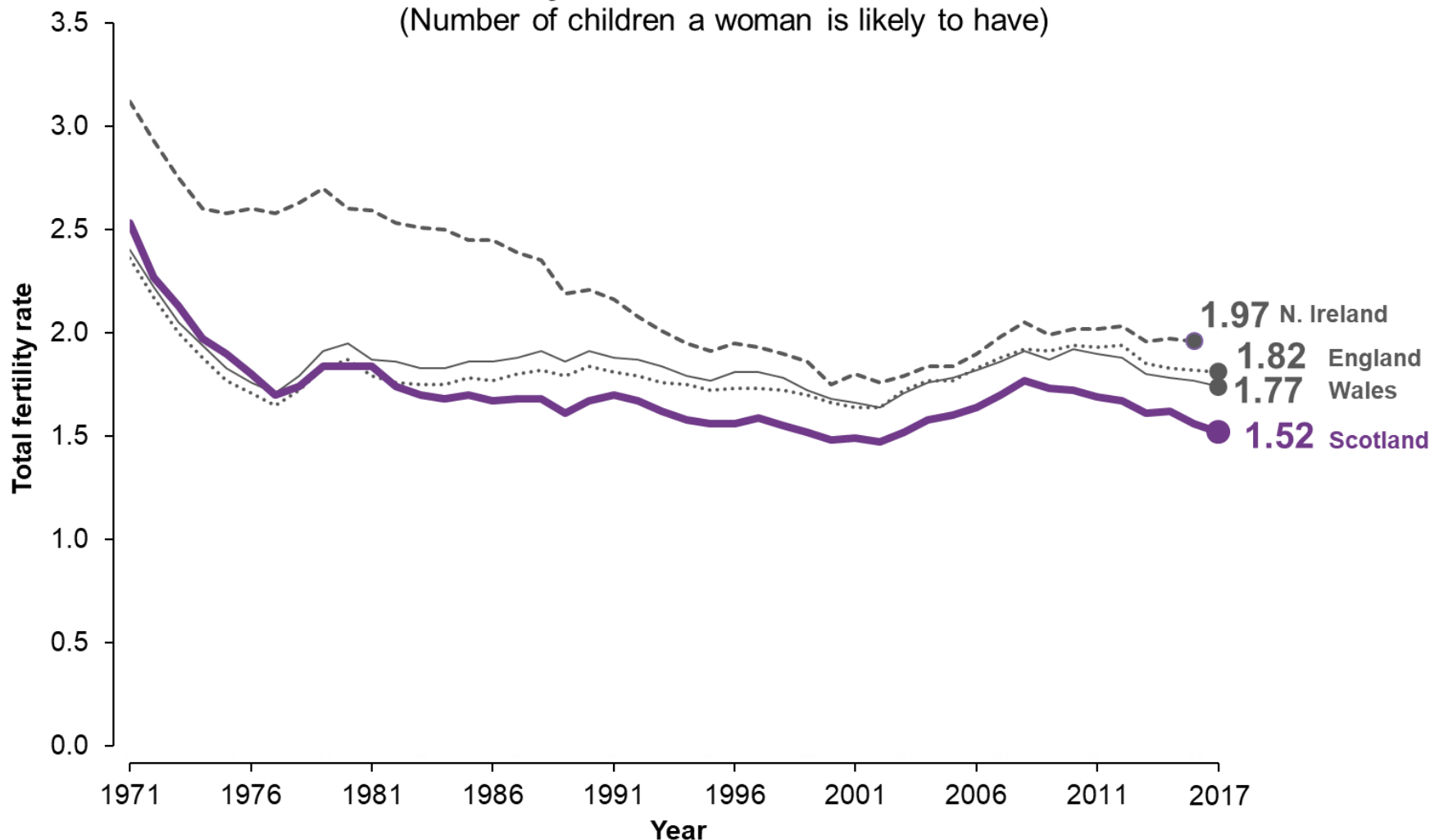
# **Births, deaths and life expectancy**



# People in Scotland have **fewer children** than in other parts of the UK

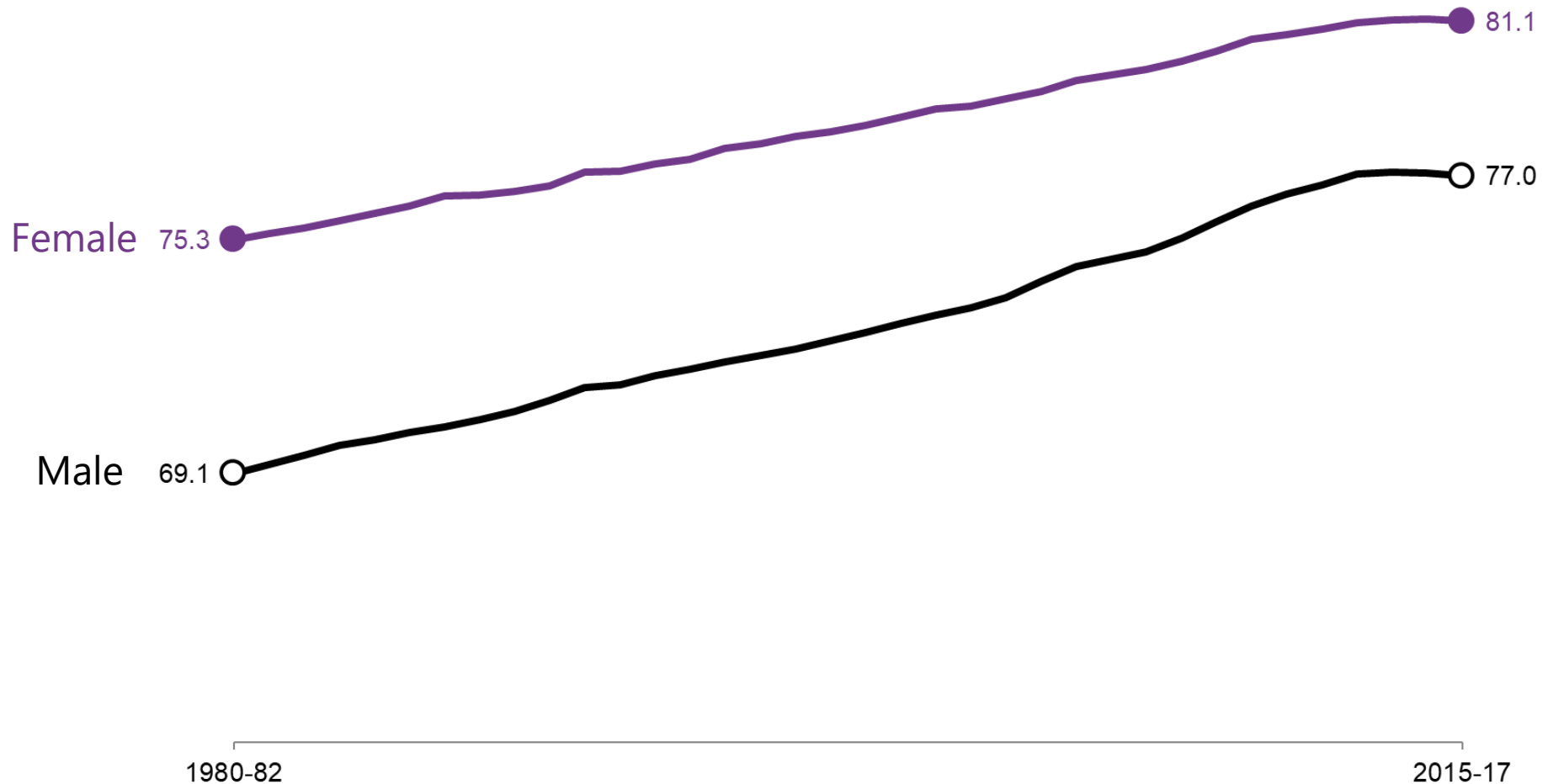
## Total fertility rates, UK countries, 1971-2017

(Number of children a woman is likely to have)

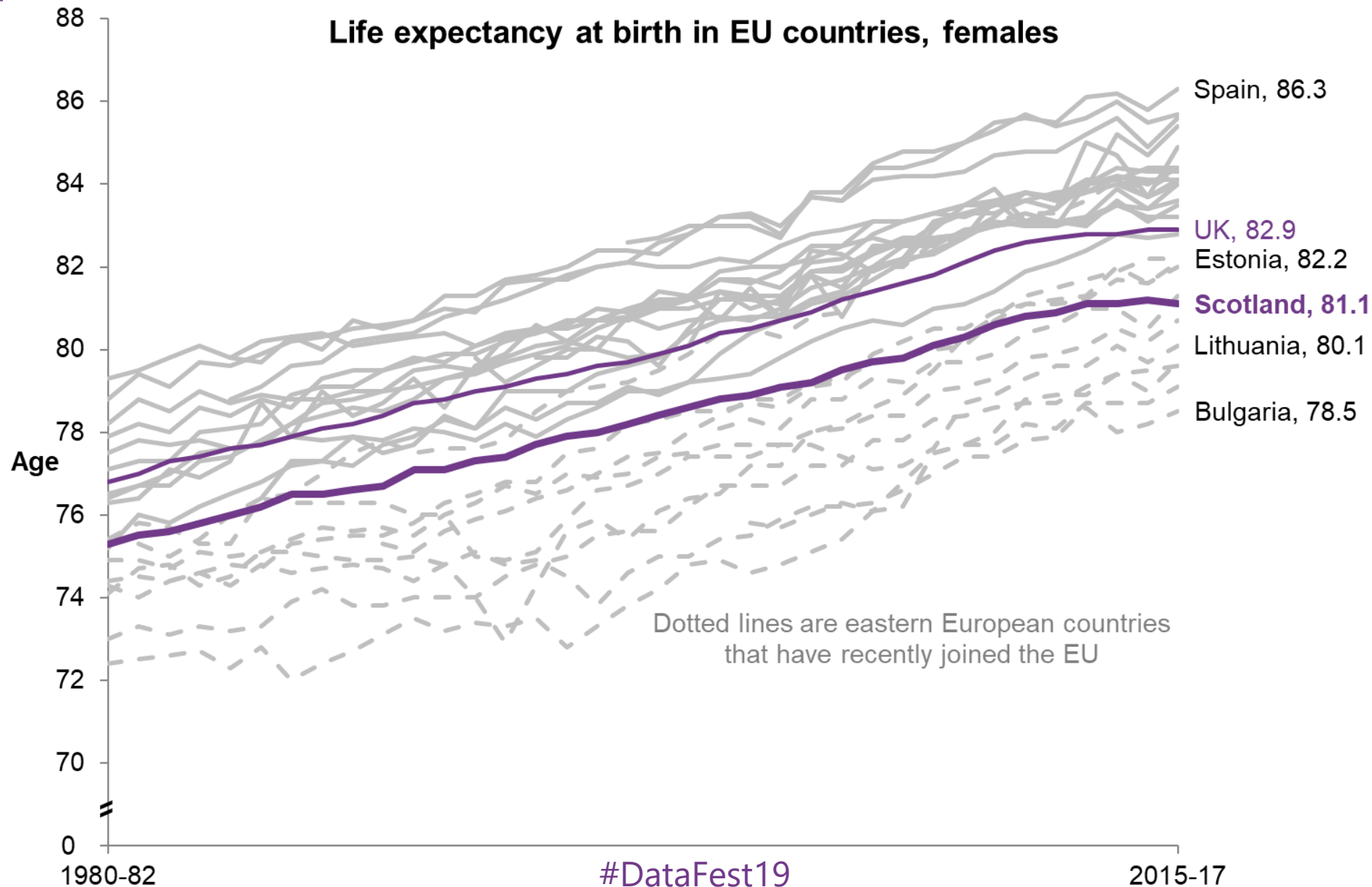


# Life expectancy was steadily increasing, but has now fallen slightly

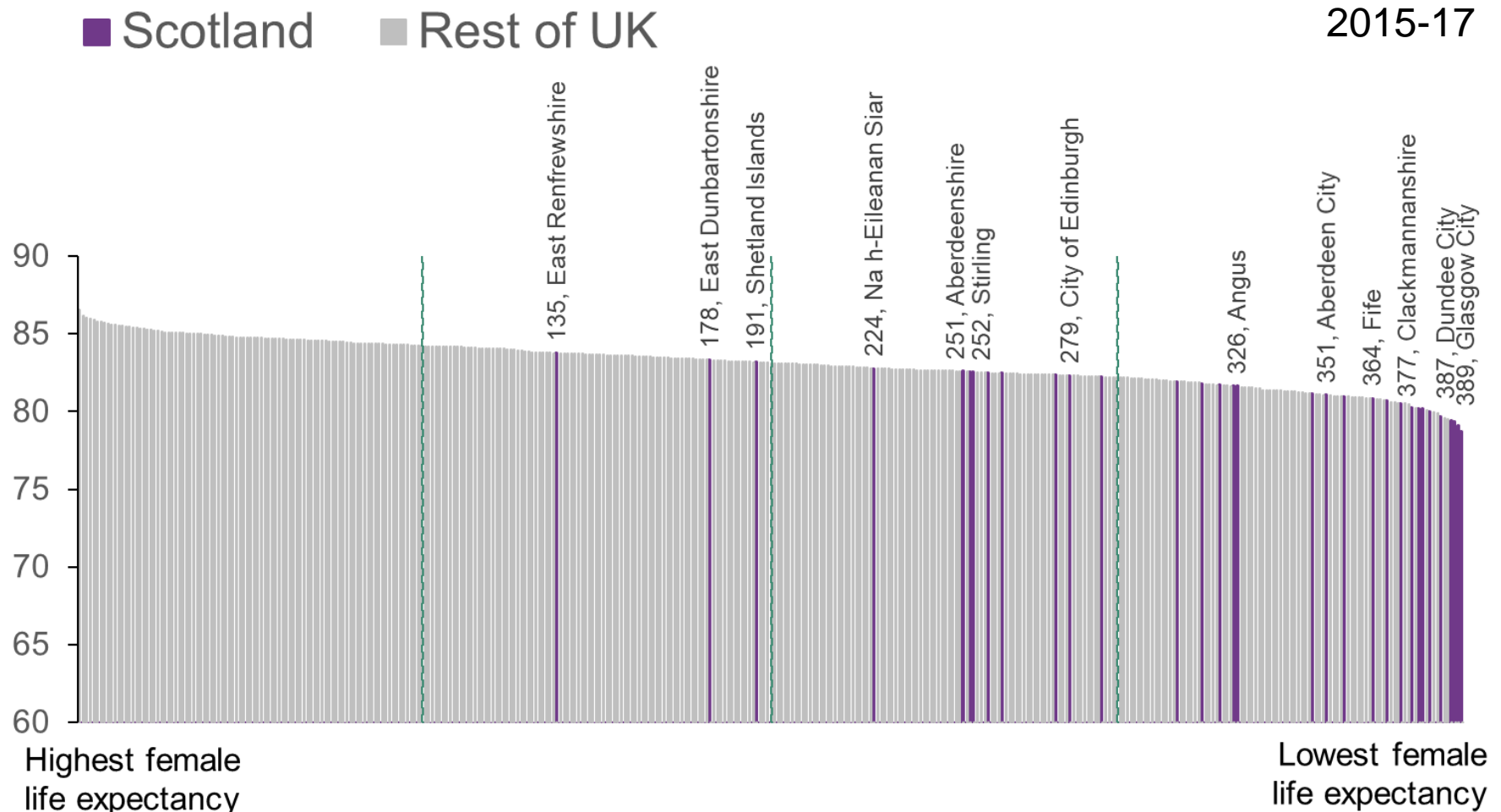
## Life expectancy at birth



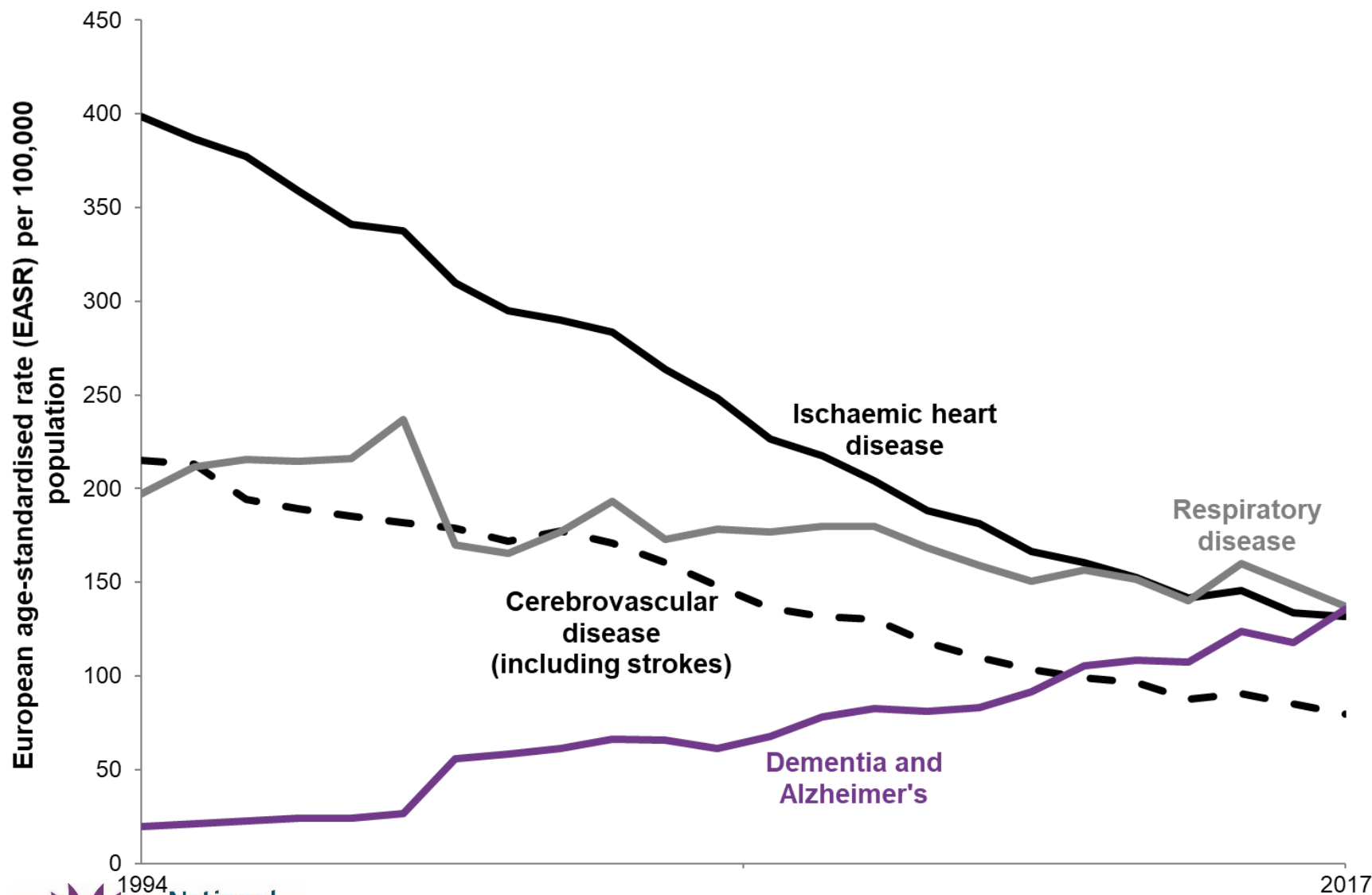
# Life expectancy in Scotland is lower than in most EU countries



# Life expectancy in Scotland is lower than in the rest of the UK

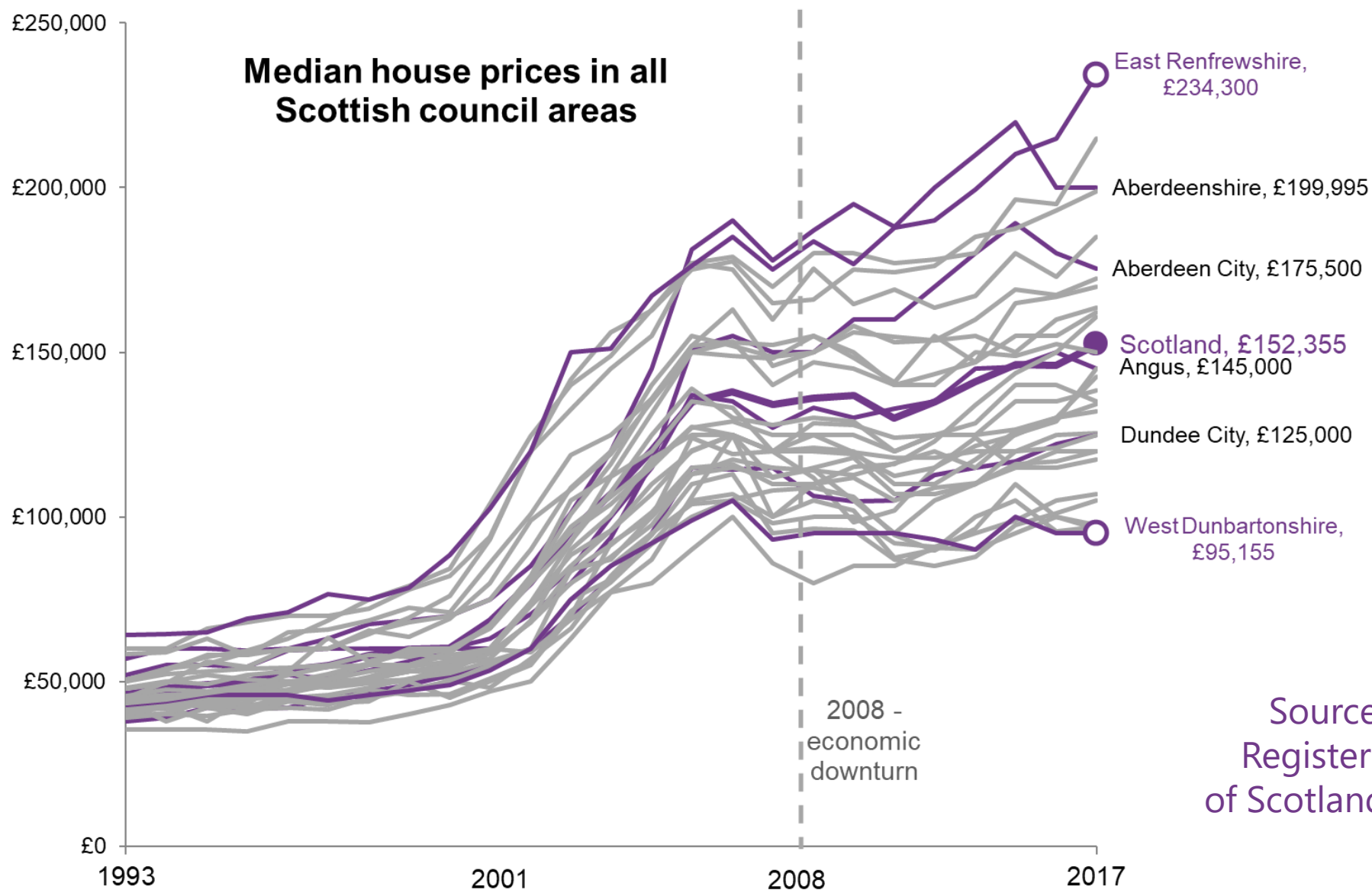


# Deaths from **circulatory diseases** are decreasing, while deaths from **dementia** and **Alzheimer's** are increasing



# Housing

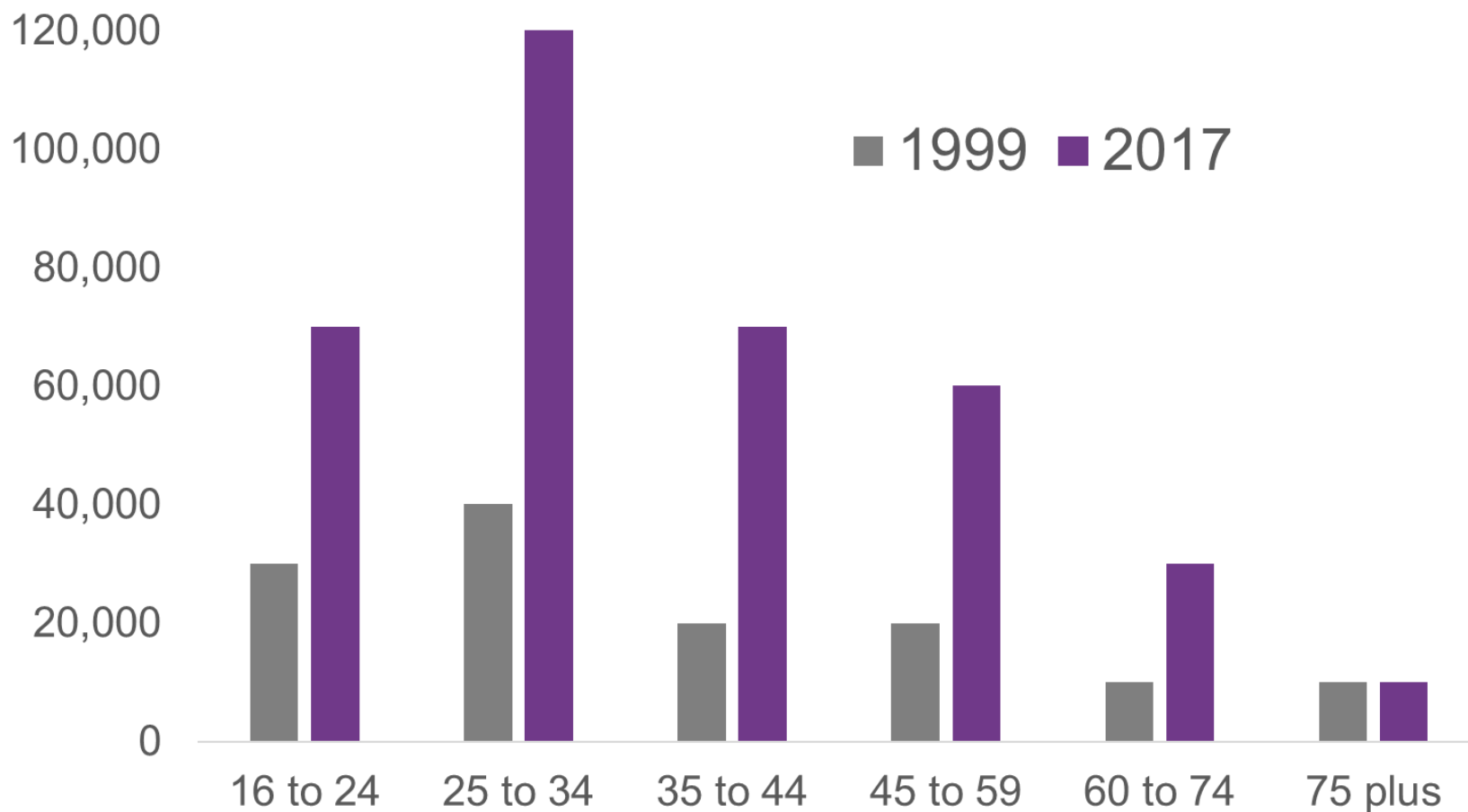
# Changes in house prices



Source:  
Registers  
of Scotland

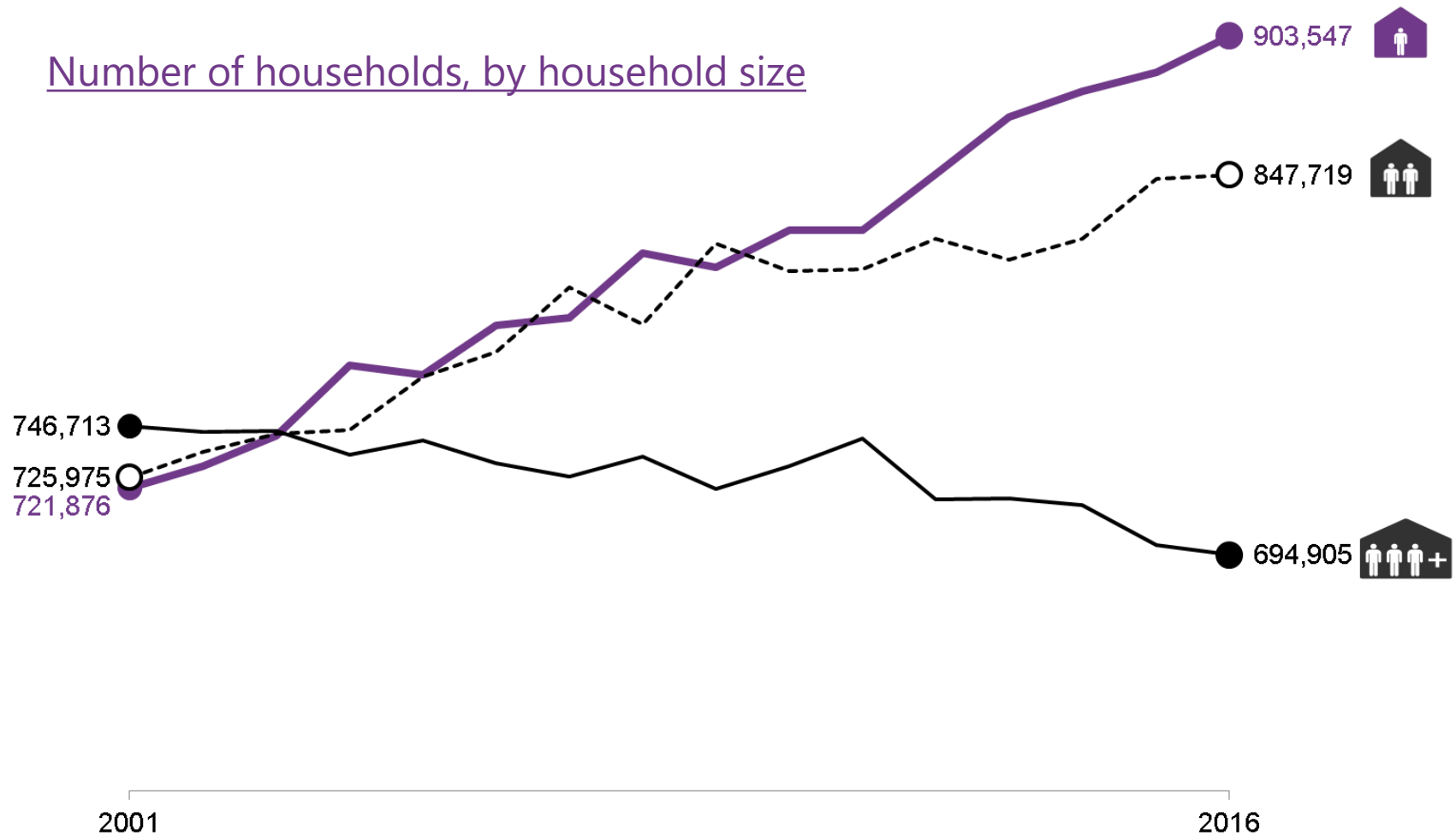
# Large increases in people **renting**

Age structure of private rented sector





# More people are **living alone** or in **smaller households**



# Implications - Housing

- Growth of Private Rented Sector
- Support needs of people living alone, particularly older people



# Key messages



- **Population**

- Population is at its **highest** ever at 5,404,700
- Overall population is **increasing**, mostly due to **migration**
- Population is **ageing**, with most growth among pensioners



- **Births and deaths**

- **Birth rates** are **lower** in Scotland than in the rest of the UK
- **Life expectancy has increased** over the past 3 decades, but has stalled in recent years.
- **Life expectancy** is lower than in the rest of the UK, and western Europe



- **Housing**

- More people **living alone**
- Large growth in people **renting**

# How to find out more

StatisticsCustomerServices@nrscotland.gov.uk  
ScotlandsCensus@nrscotland.gov.uk

[www.nrscotland.gov.uk](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk)

[www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk)

Census maps: [scotland.datashine.org.uk](http://scotland.datashine.org.uk)

[www.statistics.gov.scot](http://www.statistics.gov.scot)



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